

This document provides an overview of the Population Health Innovation Lab's *Aligning Systems for Health* research project, which is part of an initiative supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation & led by the Georgia Health Policy Center.

Improving understanding of alignment of social services, public health, & health care by

EXPLORING OUTCOMES IN ACCOUNTABLE COMMUNITIES OF/FOR HEALTH (ACHS)

OVERVIEW

The Population Health Innovation Lab (PHIL) is exploring how alignment among public health, health care, & social service sectors—in partnership with community members and Tribal Nations—lead to outcomes in ACHs in California & Washington. It is 1 of 7 research projects administered by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's [Aligning Systems for Health initiative](#) to test the [Framework for Aligning Sectors](#).

GOALS

1

Improve empirical understanding of the ways in which an ACH's **system context & collaboration dynamics influence outcomes.**

2

Provide useful, actionable, & accessible information for policymakers, ACH staff, & community stakeholders working to improve health equity.

WHAT IS AN ACH?

"Accountable Communities for Health (ACHs) are **community-based partnerships formed across sectors** such as health care, housing, social services, public health, employment training and economic development to focus on a **shared vision and responsibility for the health of the community.**"

- [Funders Forum on Accountable Health](#) (2020)

*Note: Washington state refers to ACHs as "Accountable Communities **of** Health." Most others (including California) refer to ACHs as "Accountable Communities **for** Health."*





RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. How can elements of an ACH's system context & collaboration dynamics be combined, enhanced, or mitigated to increase the likelihood of achieving effective **cross-sector alignment, long-term sustainability, & improved health equity**?
2. **When** do certain configurations work, **for whom, why, & under what conditions**?

“Cross-sector alignment is more than collaborative planning or a single joint project. It requires **fundamentally new ways of thinking and working together across sectors** to build healthier and more equitable communities.”

- [Georgia Health Policy Center](#) (2020)

METHODS



DESIGN	CONCEPTUAL LENSES	POPULATION	DATA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Realist evaluation & participatory approach > Causal-comparative design > Mixed methods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Framework for Aligning Sectors > Common Framework for Assessing ACHs > Integrative Framework for Collaborative Governance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > California & Washington State > 22 ACHs > About 1,000 ACH participants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Primary & secondary data (surveys, interviews, focus groups, records) > Descriptive & inferential analysis (process tracing, multilevel modeling, network analysis)

Want to learn more about the Population Health Innovation Lab (PHIL)?

Contact Sue Grinnell at Sue.Grinnell@phi.org

Want to learn more about the research project?

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PROJECT TEAM

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